

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 /076 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2291

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JA, KS

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARIANS DISCUSS TROOP WITHDRAWALS

SUMMARY. JAPAN AND ROK PARLIAMENTARIANS MEETING IN TOKYO FEBRUARY 16 EXPRESSED "DEEP CONCERN" THAT, IN ABSENCE OF PEACE SETTLEMENT ON KOREAN PENINSULA, US TROOP WITHDRAWALS WOULD CAUSE INSTABILITY NOT ONLY ON PENINSULA BUT IN WHOLE OF NORTHEAST ASIA. MANY ON JAPANESE SIDE, AND UNDOUBEDLY KOREAN DELEGATION, WISHED TO GO FURTHER AND OPPOSE WITHDRAWALS, BUT WERE RESTRAINED BY PUBLIC GOJ POSITION AS STATED TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND IN DIET. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPAN-ROK DIET MEMBERS' LEAGUE HELD SIXTH MEETING IN TOKYO FEBRUARY 16. FORMER ROK PRIMIN KIM CHONG-PIL LED FORTY-MEMBER ROK DELEGATION; FORMER LOWER HOUSE
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SPEAKER NAKA FUNADA LED ONE HUNDRED-MAN JAPANESE DELEGATION. PRIMIN FUKUDA AND FONMIN HATOYAMA, ALONG WITH DSP CHAIRMAN KASUGA, ATTENDED OPENING SESSION, BUT ADDITIONAL SIX CABINET MEMBERS, WHO ARE LEAGUE MEMBERS, DID NOT PARTICIPATE.

2. STRAIGHTFORWARD ADDRESS BY KIM CALLED US-ROK SECURITY

COOPERATION ESSENTIAL TO PEACE IN NORTHEAST ASIA AND URGED ADDITIONAL LONG-TERM JAPAN-ROK ECONOMIC COOPERATION. PRIMIN FUKUDA'S RESPONSE WAS UNSUALLY BLAND, POINTING UP IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES, SUCH AS PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING, IN OVERCOMING "COMMUNICATION GAP." FAR LESS RESTRAINED, ROK SEC GEN LEE BYUNG-HEUI STRESSED IMPORTANT DETERRENT ROLE OF US GROUND FORCES IN ROK IN PREVENTING CONFLICT ON KOREAN PENINSULA AND CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT US-JAPAN-ROK PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATION. SPEAKING FOR JAPAN, LEAGUE CHAIRMAN FUNADA UNDERSCORED IMPORTANCE OF MUTUAL JAPAN-ROK UNDERSTANDING TO ASIAN PEACE AND STABILITY, BUT LDP'S MORI, LEAGUE SEC GEN, URGED FULL US-ROK CONSULTATIONS TO PREVENT UPSET OF DELICATE BALANCE ON KOREAN PENINSULA, AND EXPRESSED HOPE US WOULD HANDLE ISSUE CAUTIOUSLY.

3. AT SESSION'S CLOSE, GROUP ISSUED JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH STATED INTER ALIA THAT: JAPAN'S SECURITY WAS DIRECTLY LINKED TO ROK SECURITY AND "UNPRINCIPLED" JAPANESE APPROACH TO NORTH KOREA COULD UPSET CURRENT BALANCE ON KOREAN PENINSULA. US FORCES IN ROK HAVE PLAYED IMPORTANT DETERRENT ROLE AND IN ABSENCE OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT ON PENINSULA, SUCH AS NORTH-SOUTH NON-AGGRESSION AGREEMENT, THERE WAS DEEP CONCERN THAT REDUCTION OF US GROUND FORCES WOULD CAUSE INSTABILITY NOT ONLY ON KOREAN PENINSULA BUT IN WHOLE OF NORTHEAST ASIA; CAUTION, THEY AGREED, WAS ESSENTIAL. US-JAPAN-ROK CONSULTATIVE PARLIAMENTARIANS' ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE ORGANIZED, JAPAN-ROK TRADE AND ECONOMIC CONFIDENTIAL

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COOPERATION SHOULD BE EXPANDED, AND JAPANESE DIET SHOULD RATIFY URGENTLY JAPAN-ROK CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT. IT WAS AGREED COMMUNIQUE WOULD BE SENT TO PRESIDENTS CARTER AND PARK AND PRIMIN FUKUDA.

4. COMMENT. JAPANESE DELEGATION WAS CLEARLY UNDER WRAPS, HAVING BEEN WARNED TWICE SEMI-PUBLICLY THAT THEY SHOULD NOT GO BEYOND FUKUDA'S STATEMENTS ON TROOP WITHDRAWALS TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND DIET QUESTIONERS. (DELEGATION'S GUIDELINES WERE THAT TROOP WITHDRAWALS WERE BASICALLY A US-ROK ISSUE AND JAPAN HOPED THERE WOULD BE NO INSTABILITY ON KOREAN PENINSULA.) JAPANESE DELEGATION PUSHED AS FAR AS IT COULD, AND CLEARLY WISHED TO GO FURTHER STILL AND FLATLY OPPOSE WITHDRAWALS. WHILE OUTCOME OF SESSION DEMONSTRATED FUKUDA'S ABILITY TO COMMAND DISCIPLINE ON ISSUE, IT NEVERTHELESS REFLECTED STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT TROOP WITHDRAWALS AMONG CONSERVATIVES IN LDP AND DSP. SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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